be taken in the direction of the Common School System. The Neighborhood School Concept is one of the necessary steps to be taken for realisation of this goal. The Government would like to bring the existing schools under the Neighbourhood School Concept with a view to effecting egalitarianism in school education.

Lowering the growth rate target.

1562. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned to lower the growth rate target to 2.5 per cent contrary to Planning Commission's announcement of 3 per cent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what targets have been stipulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLIMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): a) No, Sir. The Approach to Eighth Plan stipulates a growth rate of 5.5 percent.

(b) Does not arise.

Charges levelled by the former Deputy Prime Minister against Cabinet colleagues regarding involvement in Bofors gun deal

1563. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Deputy Prime Minister has recently levelled charges against two of his Cabinet colleagues in connection with their involvement in Bofors deal;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to probe through the CBI the alleged involvement of those Ministers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what further action Government propose to take on the charges levelled by the former Deputy Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (d) The former Deputy Prime Minister wrote to the Prime Minister on 15-7-1990 about irregularities, not connected with the Bofors deal, allegedly committed by certain Union Ministers. The Prime Minister requested the former Deputy Prime Minister to substantiate the allegations and to send him all the documents on which these based. The Prime Minister assured the former Deputy Prime Minister that all evidence sent by him would be expeditiously and impartially scrutinised and processed.

The former Deputy Prime Minister wrote back to the Prime Minister on the 22nd July, 1990. While not substantiating the allegations he had made, he stated that there were some stories in circulation which he thought were based on rumours and misinformation, planted by some interested sections. He added that these stories had gained credibility with him because of a letter which Shri V. P. Singh had written, in November 1987, to the President of India on the Bofors gun deal in which Shri V. P. Singh had allegedly referred to one of the Ministers presently in the Cabinet. Immediately on receiving this letter, the Prime Minister requested the former Deputy Prime Minister to send him the letter allegedly wrtiten by him. The former Deputy Prime Minister sent the Prime Minister a photostat copy of the alleged letter. The Prime Minister immediately ordered an enquiry by the CBI. A preliminary verification by the CBI has indicated that the letter is a fabrication.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister wrote a detailed letter to the former Deputy Prime Minister, explaining to him that the letter referred to in para 2 was a total fabrication.